

National Resource Centers and
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

SOUTH ASIA

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Abstracts
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Columbia University National Resource Center for South Asian Studies

Columbia University is a “New York” place: dense, diverse, exciting. The faculty and research associates of Columbia’s South Asia NRC form a similarly dense network that provides quick, efficient communication with an astounding variety of institutions and individuals in our region of some 20 million people.

New York is home to the nation’s largest community of South Asian Americans. New faculty Sandhya Shukla in Anthropology and film director Mira Nair in the School of the Arts have in very different ways engaged with them. With the new endowed chairs, soon to be filled, in South Asian Art History and the Political Economy of India, and the University's commitment to maintaining existing lines, our faculty strength will increase.

In this grant period we seek to deploy and increase that strength by further expanding our collaboration with other regional NRCs, thematic Centers (especially the new Center for Comparative Literature and Society), and professional schools at Columbia (especially Journalism and the School of the Arts). Proposed initiatives include new curriculum development workshops (intended to serve our faculty) and a set of “teaching South Asia” workshops, intended for secondary and post-secondary teacher training. We also have embarked on a major collaboration, under the umbrella of Columbia's Earth Institute, with the Lamont-Doherty Geophysical Laboratory, the School of Public Health, and two programs in the School of Public and International Affairs, to study the Arsenic-in-the-water crisis in Bangladesh.

We expect to organize three conferences, the first, in collaboration with the African Institute, on “Women's Rights in Anglophone Africa and South Asia.” The next year we will do one on the fine arts of South Asia, and in the third year of the grant, one on South Asia's political economy. Our successful programs of weekly “brown-bag” lectures, the Distinguished Lecture Series, and other special lectures and events will continue.

One of the most significant electronic “virtual library” resources for South Asia is situated at Columbia, the website named SARAI. We will expand that resource and our own website, to house our proposed “on-line independent study” project, a “(Corrective) Guide to Misunderstandings of South Asia,” and a set of faculty-developed “slide” shows.

Old initiatives on language instruction (the Punjab Summer Institute, the “active language” initiative) will continue in new formats. Tamil instruction has been put firmly in place, drawing on a significantly-increased body of graduate students. We have extended our geographic reach southwards, with the settling in of Professors Dirks and Daniel (the NRC Director) in Anthropology; Professors Viswanathan (Comparative Literature) and Heller (Sociology) provide additional South India/Sri Lanka expertise.

We will expand our role as a gateway to the networks of scholars within the disciplines who literally do not speak our language(s), and to those outside the university who will increasingly mine our expertise and our connections to an area of the globe with which they are becoming increasingly involved. We will fold that into our broader role as a gateway to South Asia for the large population of “consumers” –including our own undergraduates—who course through New York.

CORNELL/SYRACUSE SOUTH ASIA CONSORTIUM

Funded as a National Resource Center since 1985, the Cornell-Syracuse Consortium, (henceforth the Consortium) comprises two centers: the South Asia Program located in the Einaudi Center for International Studies (CIS) at Cornell University, and the South Asia Center, located in the Global Affairs Institute (GAI) of the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

The Consortium administers the Title VI NRC grant and coordinates the activities of the two centers, whose mission is to promote * through research, teaching and service * a better understanding of the histories, cultures, and contemporary affairs of Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The Consortium also facilitates the sharing of curricula and graduate advising between campuses, and promotes the unified, consortial activities described below. Cornell, the landgrant institution for New York State, and an unusual blend of private and public educational units, and Syracuse, a private research university with thirteen different schools and colleges, provide a wide variety of academic options in which South Asian studies can be pursued, and offer Baccalaureate, Master's and Doctoral degrees.

The Consortium offers regular instruction in Bengali, Hindi-Urdu, Nepali, Pali, Sanskrit, and Sinhala, and offers instruction in South Asian studies in an unusually broad range of academic disciplines from Ethnomusicology and Film Studies to Forestry and Rural Development. Instruction is provided by a world-renowned faculty whose aggregate expertise ranges even more broadly than the instructional programs they cover.

The special excellences of the Consortium lie in its interdisciplinary and cross disciplinary orientation, especially in its commingling of traditional area studies with a predominant strength in applied and professional approaches to the study of contemporary South Asia. The Consortium is, for example, arguably the strongest center in the country for the study of the political economy of the region. The Consortium is also unusual among South Asia Centers for the strength of coverage of the nations of South Asia other than India, as exemplified by the leading role the Consortium plays in the teaching of Sinhala, Nepali, and Bengali. Other axes of shared academic interest and excellence that constitute special strengths are: 1) Language, Linguistics, Language Acquisition, and Communication; 2) Religion, Society, and Gender; 3) Environment, Culture, and Policy; 4) Architecture, City Planning, and Industrial Relations; and 5) Rural Development.

The two partners in the Consortium complement each other's relative strengths in South Asian Studies, with Cornell relatively stronger in the social sciences and in the study of Nepal, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, while Syracuse is relatively stronger in the humanities and in the study of India.

The Consortium's Library aggregate collection of 493,717 and 9,264 serials and periodicals constitute one of the largest collections in the country. This well-managed and well-integrated collection is available to the general public in our open libraries and stacks.

Our Outreach programs target unserved communities of the region and country, especially the secondary school and two and four-year college teachers of the Central New York and Pennsylvania region

The North Carolina Center

- The North Carolina Center for South Asia Studies proposes on behalf of the Triangle South Asia Consortium to establish a Title VI Undergraduate National Resource Center (NRC) for South Asia with an accompanying Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) request. The Consortium is an thirteen year-old educational cooperative of the specialist South Asia faculties of North Carolina State University, Duke University, The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, and most recently North Carolina Central University. This is a first time application.

National Resource Center Theme

- The theme for this application is "Rethinking Master Narratives," which seeks through a series of seminars, workshops, and media-based series to examine the relationship of South Asia-based research to the disciplinary paradigms that structure our basic curricula.

Proposed NRC Theme Activities

- speaker series on the narratives of transnational identities as seen by traditional disciplines
- workshop series on S. Asia Islam challenging the narratives of national and religious hegemony
- media series on new, suppressed, and competing narratives of South Asian self image

Proposed NRC Institution-building Activities

- subsidy for new faculty position in Cultural Anthropology at Duke University
- subsidy for new faculty position in Film Studies at North Carolina State University
- subsidy for a shared bibliographer through the Triangle Research Libraries Network
- establish a film study archive for South Asia cinema
- acquisitions budget for the combined libraries

Curricular Programs and Degree Tracks

- Duke: BA major and minor in Comparative Area Studies; Major (proposed) and minor in Hindi Language and Literature
- UNC-CH: BA major and minor in Hindi-Urdu through Asian Studies; BA major in International Studies with South Asia emphasis
- NCSU: BA minor in South Asia Studies; BA minor in South Asia with Hindi-Urdu track (effective spring 2000)

Faculty

- 32 core faculty (primary research & teaching interest in area) in 15 disciplines & sub-disciplines
- 19 allied faculty (serious long-term research or teaching interest in the area)

Library

- Triangle Research Libraries Network (Duke, UNC-CH, NCSU, NCCU) combined collection totaling 12.4 million volumes (with est. less than 30% overlap), 114,089 serial subscription titles, 12.5 million microforms, and approximately 3 million government documents
- 225,000 South Asia titles (2000 serials), 35,000 of which are South Asia vernaculars
- new adopted "dispersed vernacular collection" policy, with TRLN-wide bibliographer

Outreach.

- community college faculty training workshops & K-12 teacher training workshops
- speakers bureau for K-16, and for the general public, business, and media
- public performance series and radio show on South Asia music (WKNC 88.1 FM)

The Center for South Asia Studies at the University of California at Berkeley

The mission of the Center for South Asia Studies at the University of California is to support the teaching, research, cultural, outreach, development and community activities relating to South Asia and South Asians at Berkeley, its sister institutions in the University of California system, and in the primary, secondary and post-secondary educational system of the State of California. Its activities thus encompass on-campus and off-campus programs; direct support for teaching at Berkeley and curriculum and materials support for schoolteachers and college faculty; information center activities for students and faculty; a link to South Asia resources at Berkeley for media, business, government and the community; and support for the most significant library of South Asia materials in the West.

Berkeley offers undergraduate and graduate degrees with a South Asia emphasis in several departments throughout the College of Letters and Science and in a number of professional schools. We offer Hindi, Tamil, Urdu, Sanskrit and Persian languages to the Ph.D. level as well as training in Punjabi, Pali, Prakrit, Vedic Sanskrit and classical Tamil. To train graduate students, South Asia coursework at Berkeley is available in a range of humanities, social science and professional school departments. Berkeley also affords an outstanding environment for undergraduate education as one of the nation's only institutions offering both major and minor concentrations in the study of the culturally, economically and strategically important but understudied countries of South Asia.

South Asia studies at Berkeley dates to the inauguration of Sanskrit instruction in 1906; and today our faculty includes 18 specialists who devote 50% or more of their teaching and research time to South Asia; another 5 who spend more than a quarter of their time on the area in addition to 3 distinguished emeriti who continue to supervise dissertations and take on new graduate students.

During the proposed grant period 2000-2003 the University of California intends to maintain and build upon its preeminence in South Asia language and area training involving units in the humanities and social science while expanding the availability of South Asian instruction in the professional schools and colleges. We look forward to the continuation of our virtually 100% rate of overseas training for graduate students, a continuing increase in the number of our undergraduate concentrators entering study abroad programs in the region, and still further growth in our already outstanding rate of successful grant applications for faculty research in the region. Continuing additions to our South Asia faculty strength have created and will continue to build a unique mix of younger and senior faculty on the campus with enhanced opportunities for cooperative and interdisciplinary programs in the areas of research and teaching. This has also facilitated our highly successful practice of organizing South Asia scholarly events--conferences, seminars, speakers and symposia--and even some instructional programs around contemporary themes.

We anticipate that the proposed grant period, 2000-2003, will witness critical political, strategic, economic and cultural developments in South Asia and that Berkeley's Center for South Asia Studies will continue to build its faculty, programs, and community linkages to remain one of the nation's premier resources for the understanding of this diverse and vital region.

UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO SOUTH ASIA NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER

Founded in the 1950s, this well established South Asia Center has reinvented itself in the 1980s and 1990s. Building on the strength of its founders, the Center has steadily added new faculty in the 1990s both in language and area studies. It has infused older competencies with new perspectives and pedagogies.

The Center's main product is teachers. It places graduates in liberal arts colleges and universities in the U.S. and abroad. It has supplied high-ranking officers to the Department of State and to important not-for-profit institutions such as the Asia Society, the Rand Corporation, the Ford Foundation, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture, and Amnesty International.

Ranging across all the countries in the area, the program has granted degrees for dissertations on Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Tibet. In recent years the program has produced an annual average of 18-22 Ph.D.s, 21-23 M.A.s, and 38-42 B.A.s. Thirty-eight area and language faculty in twenty-three departments and six professional programs train them. Approximately 220 courses with South Asia content are taught; around 150 are taught at any one time.

Students of South Asia receive their degrees through various disciplinary departments but add comprehensive language and area training. This is useful for placement in that it opens both disciplinary and South Asia tracks for job candidates. Interdisciplinary collaboration also characterizes the three-quarter flagship course, South Asian Civilizations, especially designed as an introduction the course is taught by historians, political scientists, literature scholars, and classicists. Multifarious opportunities for graduate study of South Asia are available. The Business School and the Committee on International Relations have designed formal joint degrees, while the Divinity, Public Policy, and Law programs grant degrees with an area emphasis.

The chief enhancements proposed include: the initiation of a new undergraduate study abroad program in India; the seeding of new positions in literature, Tibetan language, and art history; shifting all salaries for tenured language faculty from the Center budget to the University's; creation of new language resources on the Web; sponsoring three seminars on human rights; and inaugurating The World Knowledge Program in collaboration with other Chicago NRCs.

The Library is the leading South Asia private library in the U.S. and abroad. Its strength rests not only on an outstanding collection of 529,800 volumes, 4,400 current serials, 3,500 audio-visuals, and 10,200 maps, but on the quality of the collection processing and accessibility. With 6.5 FTEs serving under a full-time bibliographer and full-time assistant to the bibliographer, staffing is very high, processing of materials expeditious, and access for university and visiting scholars user-friendly. Major collaborative projects with Tamil and Urdu private collections in India are designed to preserve materials and make them available in the United States while new, federally-funded digital initiatives at the Library will improve access to vital South Asia resources worldwide.

Outreach by faculty and specially hired staff includes initiatives to post-secondary institutions, media, business, and government. Four projects bring 100 or so collegiate teachers to campus annually for conferences or long-term fellowships funded by Ford, MacArthur, Mellon, and NEH. The regular and highly acclaimed summer workshop for secondary teachers includes packages of well-selected teaching materials.

University of Michigan

The University of Michigan's National Resource Center for South Asian Studies is housed at the Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS). This center emerged this year from the former Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies, established in 1961, a unit of the University's International Institute since 1993. Our mission is to support undergraduate, graduate, and professional school training in South Asia area and language studies; to develop and enhance faculty expertise and research in the area; and to share our specialized knowledge and resources with the community at large through outreach activities.

Forty-one faculty throughout the university teach, research, consult, and engage in collaborative professional activity related to South Asia, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and in professional schools including Architecture and Urban Planning, Business, Engineering, Law, Music, Natural Resource and Environment, Public Health and Social Work. Each year more than 100 courses with South Asia content are taught, covering anthropology, Asian religions, history, political science, literature, art history, music, business, public health, urban planning, natural resources and environment. Language instruction includes at least three levels each of Hindi/Urdu, Tamil, Classical Tibetan, and Sanskrit; and two levels of Panjabi. Instruction in Marathi, Gujarati, Nepalese, Telugu, and Kannada is available on demand.

Michigan's libraries and collections consist of more than 298,000 titles on South Asia, including 68,456 monographs in South Asian languages and 1,700 periodicals. Specialized collections include the slide and photograph collections on South Asia in the U-M Asian Art Archives, the Stearns collection of rare musical instruments, the Koelz collection of Tibetan thang-ka paintings, books on South Asian law in the Law Library, the special collection of rare South Asia maps in the Map Room of the Graduate Library, and books on business and economics in the Kresge Business Administration Library.

Michigan has particular strengths in interdisciplinary and professional training and research on South Asia. These include an interdisciplinary Asian Studies concentration for BA's; an MA in South Asian Studies, which may be combined with a master's degree in Architecture and Urban Planning, Business, Natural Resources and Environment, Public Policy, Social Work and other professional fields; with English/Comparative Literature, History/Anthropology and Linguistics/Asian Languages and Cultures. In addition, a new initiative between the Law School and CSAS offers the opportunity to earn both a JD and an MA in South Asian Studies. There are also many opportunities for students in all schools and disciplines to undertake field research or internships in South Asia.

Regular programmatic outreach activities include a teacher-training workshop, an academic sharing program, a workshop for elementary and secondary school curriculum development initiatives. Our brown bag lecture series, thematic conferences, exhibitions and film festivals are open to the public. The South Asia business activities include an executive education seminar in South Asia. Individual faculty are actively involved, as resource specialists, in lecturing to community groups and in various media activities on both the local and national levels.

The University of Michigan, which traditionally has sought to be an outstanding, nationally recognized intellectual center, has recently redefined its vision for the twenty-first century to provide for full engagement in the international scholarly community. With this support behind us, CSAS is committed to embarking on the new initiatives described in the following pages.

University of Texas at Austin

Established in 1960, The Center for Asian Studies at The University of Texas at Austin is today among this country's foremost institutions for training in South Asian languages, for research and teaching on South Asia, and for knowledge, information, and outreach on the culture, politics, and economics of South Asian societies. Through the support of the University Administration and the Department of Education's Title VI Grants, the Center's South Asia program has grown into a University wide program with faculty and students drawn from over 20 disciplines. In particular, the past decade has seen remarkable growth of the South Asia faculty at the University with the addition of 14 new faculty lines. With the establishment of the Department of Asian Studies in 1994, the South Asia program has acquired an even stronger presence within the University. Between the Center and the Department, we now award seven degrees in South Asian studies, including two joint-M.A. degrees.

The South Asia program is supported by over 60 faculty who regularly offer over 150 graduate or undergraduate South Asia related courses. While the range of our course offerings reflects the expansive coverage provided to South Asia across the University, we have also focused on developing intensive specializations in a number of academic disciplines. Our strong language program continues to expand, and we now offer Tamil in addition to complete language instruction in Hindi, Urdu, Malayalam (the only place in the country), Telugu, and Sanskrit. The Center is the only institution in the southwestern United States which imparts South Asia related teacher training, and we continue to develop our workshops and programs for elementary, secondary and post-secondary school institutions. In addition, we have recently initiated a book series in collaboration with Oxford University Press to publish crucial research that university presses find commercially unviable. Our significant library holdings continue to increase, and the University remains committed to providing students with the widest possible access to research materials on South Asia. Thus, we participate in a number of cooperative arrangements with other institutions and provide access to a range of databases and full electronic text resources for this purpose. Our collection is also accessible to other audiences, and our involvement with a variety of consortia increases this access.

We have established several priorities to further enhance the quality of our program over the next three years. Our goals are two-fold: to maintain and further enrich our strong program and to increase the awareness of South Asia for diverse audiences. We intend to use our considerable strength in both the study of pre-modern and modern South Asia to initiate dialogues and develop links among different academic communities as well as the public. We will work to strengthen the academic program across the curriculum at UT, supporting activities ranging from further development of performance-based instruction in our language program to the development of new courses with South Asia content in under-represented disciplines. Other planned activities seek to engage new constituencies for our outreach events with a significant focus upon improving our connections to K-12 teachers. Our planned programming is based upon the premise of building upon our assets. Thus, we intend not only to continue our well-established outreach events but develop them in response to the evolving needs of teachers, initiating such activities as on-site workshops at selected schools and the development of new electronic materials on South Asia. We also intend to increase significantly our teacher-training for other post-secondary school institutions through regular resource workshops that will help develop their South Asia courses and by offering research awards for such faculty who wish to utilize our on-campus resources.

Through the use of Title VI funds, the continued support of the University of Texas, and our own fund-raising efforts, we will maintain and improve our South Asia program and remain a national center for excellence in teaching and research on South Asia.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
CENTER FOR SOUTH ASIAN STUDIES
COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL RESOURCE CENTER AND
FOREIGN LANGUAGE AND AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS

The Center has three objectives: (1) to promote and coordinate opportunities for graduate study in South Asian programs within University academic departments and undergraduate exposure to South Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Tibet), (2) to conduct outreach activities locally within Virginia and regionally within the Southeastern United States, and (3) to make FLAS awards in six languages—Hindi, Urdu, Persian, Tamil, Tibetan, and Sanskrit—to graduate students.

Operating through its Executive Committee of 16 faculty members from 10 departments, the mission of the Center is to further training in South Asian Area Studies and Languages through:

- facilitating graduate programs with South Asia concentrations in separate academic departments in the University;
- facilitating administration of an undergraduate Asian Studies major with a South Asia concentration;
- providing a semester-abroad program in India in collaboration with Emory University;
- planning and lobbying for core curriculum development through new appointments;
- promoting the development of new courses, including inter-disciplinary courses;
- providing weekly interdisciplinary lecture-seminars and academic symposia;
- providing in-service training for elementary, secondary school, and post-secondary school teachers;
- providing instruction by advanced graduate students at colleges in the Virginia Consortium for Asian Studies;
- coordinating and publicizing course offerings and disseminating information on resources,
- sponsoring artistic performances; and
- publishing a semi-annual newsletter.

The Center (established in 1976) also works to develop programmatic links with professional programs in Engineering, Business, Medicine, Education, and Architecture. With solid University commitment, we have developed one of the nation's most effective programs in South Asian Studies, with unusual successes in multi-disciplinary instruction, involvement with professional programs, and consistent placement of graduate and undergraduate degree recipients. The Center and the library work closely together to add to our large and accessible South Asia collection including extensive print, video and electronic material

Center for South Asia University of Wisconsin-Madison

The Center for South Asia operates as an individual unit of the International Institute, a consortium of area studies programs and National Resource Centers, coordinated by the dean of International Studies and Programs. The Center for South Asia, under the direction of an elected faculty director, seeks to promote, organize, implement, and take initiative in academic, scholarly, and outreach activities regarding South Asia. To fulfill this mission the University of Wisconsin-Madison and the Center for South Asia:

a) Offers two B.A., an M.A., and four Ph.D. degrees in South Asian Studies (Language and Literature, South Asian Religions, Civilization and Culture, and Buddhist Studies). Students may also specialize in South Asia by earning their Ph.D.s in other departments such as Anthropology, Art History, Buddhism, Dance, History, Journalism and Mass Communication, Law, Linguistics, Literature and Folklore, Philosophy, Religions, Sociology, and Theater and Drama and completing a minor in South Asian studies.

b) Offers intensive language training at all three degree levels. Hindi/Urdu, Nepali, Telugu, Tibetan, and Sanskrit are offered without interruption at the elementary, second-year, and third year/advanced levels. Pali, Prakrit, and Vedic are also available according to student needs. Elementary Tamil is offered during ten-week summer sessions.

c) Maintains a quality team of specialized tenure and tenure-track faculty who hold appointments in a wide range of disciplines such as: anthropology, art history, Buddhist studies, communication arts, comparative literature, English, history, languages and cultures of Asia, political science, and sociology. Currently 39 faculty members devote 25-100% of their time on research, writing, teaching, and/or outreach on South Asia.

d) Offers unique programs in language and study abroad. Wisconsin's annual summer session provides ten-weeks intensive South Asian language training in elementary Hindi/Urdu, Nepali, Tamil, Telugu, and Tibetan. Wisconsin's College-Year-In-India and College-Year-In-Nepal programs provide undergraduates from anywhere in the United States with an opportunity to complete the equivalent of one year of intensive elementary South Asian language training during Wisconsin's ten-week summer session and a second year of language training in India or Nepal plus additional degree-credit courses that are applicable to their undergraduate degree programs.

e) Maintains a highly relevant library collection of over 210,000 titles including significant holdings in South Asian Buddhism, classical and modern South Asian vernacular languages and literatures, extensive collections of the East India Company and the colonial and post-colonial Government of India, the Mohenjo-Daro complete Sind volumes, 3,500 titles held in microformat collections including rare 19th century journals and periodicals. Wisconsin also participates extensively in national cooperative programs.

f) Offers a variety of outreach programs such as: (1) Wisconsin's Annual Conference on South Asia, one of the most significant annual conferences focusing exclusively on South Asia. (2) Wisconsin's South Asia Films/Video project that produces and distributes within the United States, as well as overseas. (3) Training for K-16 teachers through participation in the Wisconsin International Outreach Consortium.